

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 10 and 51 are currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 10, 12-14, 16-19, 22-24 26-48 and 50-53 are pending, and claims 1-9, 11, 15, 20-21, 25 and 49 have been canceled.

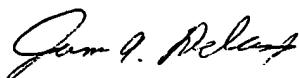
The applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 22-24, 26-48 and 50.

Claims 10, 14, 18 and 51-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Swensen (US 3,184,993). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

The office action interprets portions of the claims with reference to a bicycle that is lying horizontally on the ground. Claims 10 and 51 have been amended to clarify that the various orientations of the mounting bracket are to be interpreted based on how the mounting bracket would be oriented if the mounting bracket were attached to a vertically upright bicycle. The mounting opening (6b) referenced in the office action faces sideways when the derailleur guard (2) is mounted to a vertically upright bicycle. Also, Swenson's opening (6a) is not dimensioned to fit a rear wheel axle therein, and there is no motivation or suggestion in the prior art to enlarge such an opening. Accordingly, Swensen neither discloses nor suggests the presently claimed subject matter.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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